

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached “Replacement Sheet(s)” of drawings includes changes to Figures 1-5, 13, 14, 16, and 17. The attached “Replacement Sheets,” which includes Figures 1-18, replaces the original sheets including Figures 1-18.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments to the claims contained herein are intended to broaden the scope thereof and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheet(s)," Figures 4, 5, 13, 14, and 16 have been amended to schematically show the motor and the airflow generator; Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to show the first and second exhaust apertures; and Figure 17 has been amended to show the biasing spring in cooperation with the resiliently biased flap.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters "12", "36", "T", "80", "130", and "132" not mentioned in the description, Applicant refers the Examiner to paragraph [0007] which includes reference character "12"; paragraph [0010] which includes reference character "36"; paragraph [0011] which includes reference character "T"; paragraph [0018] which includes reference character "80"; and paragraph [0026] which includes reference characters "130" and "132."

With respect to the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(4) because the reference character "52" has been used to designate two different structures, paragraph [0011] of the specification has been amended to reflect that the reference character "52" only designates one structure, the expulsion aperture.

In regards to the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) because the drawings do not show the transparent windows of claims 3 and 5, Applicant has amended claims 3 and 5 so the drawings show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims.

Regarding the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) because the claim 1 states a planer assembly and debris container capable of being connected to the planer (i.e. the planer and the collection container should be illustrated in their combined structure), Applicant refers the Examiner to Figure 12 which shows the planer and the dust collection container connected.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the Examiner's objections to the drawings.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to overcome the Examiner's objections. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 has been amended and now states, in relevant part, “. . . wherein the curved transparent portion acts as a deflector to turn the direction of travel of any air or debris entrained within the air in the connector through substantially ninety degrees.” Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to paragraphs [0005], [0017], and [0022] and Figure 6-10 for support for the identified elements and for further description and detail so as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make or use the claimed invention.

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 because the term “whole” as used in the claim is not clear. Applicant has amended claim 2 and has replaced the term “whole” with the term “entire” for clarification purposes.

The Examiner also rejected claim 2 and claim 4 because of a lack of antecedent basis for the term “whole” in claim 2 and the term “the curved transparent window” in claims 4. Applicant has amended claims 2 and 4 to correct the lack of antecedent basis.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the Examiner’s objections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellew (U.S. Pat. No. 5,463,816) in view of Wixey et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,621). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended and includes the limitation “wherein at least a portion of the connector is transparent for viewing the debris.” As indicated by the Examiner, Bellew ‘816 does not disclose a connector, nor does Bellew ‘816 disclose a connector wherein at least a portion of the connector is transparent.

Wixey ‘621 also does not disclose a connector wherein at least a portion of the connector is transparent. In fact, no portion of the dust collection system 26 of Wixey ‘621 is disclosed as being transparent, either partially or wholly. The dust collection system 26 of Wixey includes a dust hood 870, which connects to the planer, a volute housing 1210, which connects to the dust

hood and houses the impeller structure 1212, and a receptacle or bag, which connects to the volute housing 1210.

The Examiner identified the dust receptacle or bag as being transparent because the receptacle or bag may be constructed from a fine mesh through which a user may be able to see through. However, the mesh bag is not disclosed by Wixey as being transparent. In fact, if the mesh of the receptacle or bag was large enough to see through, it would defeat the disclosed purpose of the receptacle or bag since the dust and smaller chips that were collected into the receptacle or bag would be able to escape back into the user's environment.

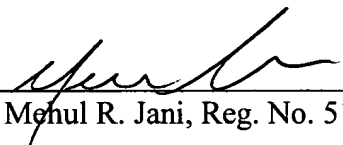
Thus, neither Bellew '816 or Wixey '621 disclose or teach a connector, wherein at least a portion of the connector is transparent for viewing the debris. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (410) 716-2886.

Respectfully submitted,

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